GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1005
ANSWERED ON:14.07.2004
CONSESSIONS TO PUNJAB BORDER DISTRICTS
Kamat Shri Gurudas

Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that the small scale industries are facing serious crises since the removal of quantitative restrictions;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government is intending to give concessions to the border districts of the Punjab for the promotion of industry on the lines of concessions given to the border districts of Jammu & Kashmir; and

(d) if so, the time by which the concessions likely to be given?

Answer

MINISTER OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES & AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD)

(a) & (b) : Government is constantly assessing and monitoring the impact of the removal of Quantitative restrictions(QRs) and WTO Agreement on the economy including the Small Scale Industries (SSIs) in the country. Though removal of QRs has exposed the SSIs to a greater competition, yet the SSI sector has continued to grow. However, even after removal of QRs, protection to the industries is available in the form of raising custom duties up to the bound levels, imposing anti-dumping duties, taking safeguards measures in case of surge in imports etc.

The Government has also put in place several measures to help SSIs become globally competitive. These include special focus on areas such as technology upgradation, infrastructure assistance through cluster approach, timely availability of credit, adoption of modern management practices, use of electronic infrastructure and other IT applications to face the emerging challenges of trade libralisation.

(c) : No, Sir.

(d) : Does not arise.